

FEATURE FAME FOR SALE ON THE CHINESE WEB **P.2**

MUSIC INDIE ROCKERS INSPIRED BY ANCIENT SCALES **P.3**

FOOD MUTTON CLASSICS FROM THE WORLD'S TOP CONSUMER **P.8**

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STAGE FOR FANTASY

A CHILDHOOD ENCOUNTER WITH MODELING CLAY KICKSTARTED THE ARTISTIC CAREER OF YANG SHEN, A 42-YEAR-OLD BEIJING ARTIST. **P.4**



北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

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FEATURE



Photo by msn.yinet.com

Fame for Sale on the Chinese Web

BY DIAO DIAO

Chinese media began circulating a video of two men “fighting” on the Beijing subway on January 9. Within a day, their battle over perceived discrimination was reposted on most Chinese news portals.

But while angry viewers jumped to side with each of the men, *Beijing Youth Daily* began an investigation that found the entire video was staged by one of the men, an actor hoping to get famous.

The very real conflict between Beijing locals and beipiao resonated with viewers, making it the perfect viral video.

In a way, the actors stumbled into an industry they didn’t realize exists. China’s desperate search for online fame has given rise to an entire industry that helps to script and stage faux events engineered to go viral.

Actor’s Dreams

Early netizen reports said the men were spotted fighting on January 7. Videos of the event show aggressive behavior, loud shouting and challenges to exit the subway and engage in fisticuffs.

What they don’t show is how happy the men looked when they got off the train and met up with another party at Changyang Station.

Beijing Youth Daily reported that both men in the video were actors. In an interview with the newspaper, Ma



Photos by 3news.cn

Ming, the man who played the Beijinger, admitted to staging the entire event.

Ma is from Yantai, Shandong province and has been working as an actor in Beijing for six years. He said he has appeared in several similar videos during the last six years, although none managed to go viral. Most involved similar mock fights.

Ma said he wanted to find “a more natural way to advertise and promote

himself.” A faked candid recording was the easiest option. Ma asked several of his friends to board the train and shoot the fight with their phones. The venue and style helped him avoid the cost of renting equipment or a stage.

The video required several takes because Ma and the other man could not avoid laughing. However, the most circulated video was not the one filmed by Ma and his friends – it was captured by real passenger.

Ma said the challenge to get off the train and fight was an improvised ending to the scene. He had not expected the theme of regional conflict would cause such a disturbance online, he said.

“I just wanted to promote myself and take the video to some directors so that I could apply for more TV and film roles,” Ma said. “I only realized this was serious when I saw people were criticizing me and cursing me online.”

Ma said he’s scared of being attacked on the subway and plans to return to Shandong until the anger over his video subsides.

New Business

But many people are willing to pay for Ma’s experience. An entire industry exists for people seeking to promote themselves in such a way online.

Chen Ming (pseudonym) is one of the best known online promoters working in this circle. Chen watched the video and said it was clearly not a professional attempt. Professional promoters promise an even stronger reaction.

Chen was one of the pioneers of online promotion. He calls his filming style “fake documentary” or “simulated candid.” No matter the name, the purpose is the same: to promote a person or product. Faking public incidents costs less and achieves a better viral spread than traditional advertising, he said.

“If the average viewer can believe it is real, someone will follow up on the video and try to find the identities of the people depicted,” Chen said. That search brings continuous attention.

Chen said companies spend at most 10,000 yuan to promote their company or product though such videos. Most follow a specific formula, Chen said.

The story has to be believable and resonate with netizens to cause discussion. “During this period of time, people will search for it thousands of times. Some viewers will also be searching for the person who appears in it,” Chen said.

After some time, whether found by netizens or not, the actor will expose him or herself and admit that the video was faked.

The last and also the most important step is proper rehabilitation. If the explanation is acceptable and wins some people’s understanding, it will achieve the viral marketing aims without damaging the brand.

A Growing Market

Chen is one of the hundreds of individuals and companies who has explored

this business during the last decade.

Since the advent of social media, public opinion has dominated discussion in the online world, Iheima.com said in a 2015 study of the viral marketing industry.

One of the first Chinese groups to seize on the Internet as a marketing platform was the so called *shuijun*, or water army. In 2005, many Internet developers set up PR companies and hired commentators to brigade Internet forums with their messages.

In 2010, the water army became centralized under the command of Fengke, a company that says it specializes in manipulating public opinion.

A former Fengke employee known only as “Dede” joined the company in 2012 while in college. At that time Fengke operate 50 QQ groups, each with 500 members. These members were the core power of the company, and each had hundreds of forum user accounts. The most active had more than 10,000 accounts, Dede said.

The water army was divided into beginner, intermediate and management levels. More than 10 managers were in charge of two to three QQ groups. They assigned tasks, such as posting in forums and replying to certain topics.

Beginners were often part-timers who posted during their free time. They reported their number of completed tasks to the managers and were paid accordingly each month.

Dede said that as a beginner he spent his days creating forum accounts. He earned 7 yuan on the first day, 14 yuan on the second and 20 yuan on the third day.

By the time Dede had mature accounts on Tianya.cn, MOP.com and Baidu Tieba, he was able to earn 2,000 to 3,000 yuan per month, the average salary of most water army members.

When social media gained more focus than forums, water army members shifted their focus.

Early on, they would create Weibo accounts to follow users and inflate their fan count. When Weibo started to require mobile phone numbers for verification, Dede and other water army members hired bulk SIM card sellers on Taobao to acquire thousands of phone numbers.

On Weibo, most of the sharp opinion comments and arguments are written by higher ranking water army members, Dede said. The average cost for one comment is about 50,000 yuan.

In the past decade, the water army has created many celebrities and defamed many companies. Chinaz.com reported how Samsung hired the water army to defame HTC and promote its own products. Samsung was ultimately fined more than 10 million yuan for the attack.

But as the public becomes more aware of Internet manipulation and the patterns of fake news, many celebrities and businesses who have relied on the water army and similar promotional avenues are finding it difficult to maintain their reputations. ■

MUSIC



Photos by Black Mint



Black Mint Plays Hard and Fresh Music

BY DIAO DIAO

It was images of black rock and the fresh feeling of immortals sitting on mountains, jamming on the *guqin* that inspired the formation of Black Mint, one of Beijing's indie rock bands.

"We wanted to be a powerful and strong band that would stand out," says Lu Yijiu, the group's 24-year-old founder and guitarist.

Lu Yijiu founded the band with four friends while at university. Several members left, and a new bassist, Lu Xin, and drummer, Shi Lei, joined in 2013 before changing the name from EOTS to Black Mint.

Gao Wei, the lead singer, is one of the original members and says the new name reflects how serious they take their music. With a timbre somewhere between AC/DC's Brian Johnson and vintage rock, Black Mint has the formula needed to get audiences moving.

And somehow they do that using the ancient Chinese music theory of *wusheng yinjie*, a pentatonic musical system that corresponds to the notes do, re, mi, so, and la.

Aside from Lu Xin, who studied accordion in college, none of the members have a formal music background. Consequently, he handles most of the composing.

"For most amateur indie rockers like me, we usually start from following famous songs and trying to imitate. With a little online guidance and basic music theory, we gradually figure out how to compose and form our own style," Lu Yijiu said.

In 2013, the year they were founded, Black Mint won the national Battle of the Bands competition.

Outside the band, 35-year-old Gao Wei works in a community office; 27-year-old Lu Xin works in the HR department of a tech company; and Shi Lei, 31, works in finance.

Their average age is relatively high compared to most local indie bands, and the first impression of music is also quite different.

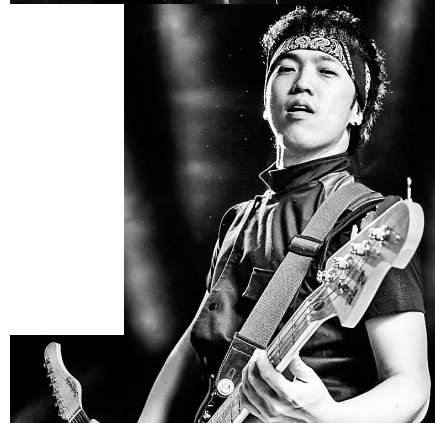
Lu Yijiu is the youngest and grew up on the music of Michael Jackson. "I watched his concerts and thought his 'lute' player looked interesting. That's when my dad told me it was a guitar," he said. His brother introduced him to more foreign bands, and American rock of the 1980s is still his favorite genre.

Shi shared a similar experience. AC/DC was his entrance to rock, and from there he started to listen to other bands. Lu Xin started to learn accordion at a young age and gradually transferred to rock. He's also a fan of Japanese music.

Gao, the oldest band member, said he began to listen to music in high school. Pop singers Zhang Yusheng and Qi Qin were his gateway to the music arts, and he spent many days singing in the town square in Yanqing to practice.

Although the members have started working on a second album, they are attempting to slow their composition pace to focus more on quality.

The members said they are very aware of their shortcomings – especially lyrically. "None of us were great students, and I can't say we have a gift for expressing ourselves with words. Our lyrics are simple and direct, but we're trying to learn to do better," Lu Yijiu said. ■



LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

Beijing boasts one of the world's most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week's live performances!

Rock Session @ Lanxi Bar

Lanxi Bar is inviting bands to have a rock party. Nixingzhe, Duanpian and Dao N, three popular indie rock bands, are going to sing their original songs at the party. Duanpian combines acoustic guitar, computers and launchpads to create different styles. Dao N is a rock band founded in 2008. Nixingzhe's interesting and experienced members have different jobs and hobbies outside music.

January 30, 9:30-11:30 pm

183 Jiugulou Dajie, Xicheng

79 yuan (ticket and drink)

Joe & CC @ DC Club

Zhu Jiaming and Wang Chengcheng are known as Joe & CC, a group founded two years ago. Joe & CC have held 10 concerts. The boy-and-girl group is very popular on both the Chinese mainland and Taiwan, and they released their first album, *You Are Always Here*, last March.

January 30, 8-10 pm

14 Shanlao Hutong, Dongcheng

50 yuan (pre sale), 80 yuan (at door)

Monkey Year Session @ 69 Cafe

2016 is the year of the monkey. To celebrate the monkey's year, 69 Cafe is inviting Australian band The Plump Trees, folk singer Anan, Cui Longyang and Bianyuan Xingzou for a New Year's party on Saturday night. On Sunday night, Bianyuan, Liu Donghong, Tong Dahe and Nathan/Nick will have another show.

January 30, 8-11:30 pm

109 Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng

Free



Deng Lijun Session @ Slow Living

Jiani, Xiaoyue, Ouyang Mengxi and Qinglang are gathering at Slow Living to commemorate Teresa Teng, the famous pop singer of the 1980s. The four will sing her most famous songs, including "Tianmimi," "Zaishui Yifang" and "Yelaixiang," as well as a few originals.

January 30, 8:30-10:30 pm

73 Daxing Hutong, Dongcheng

60 yuan (pre sale), 80 yuan (at door)

ARTISTS



The Zoo



Beauty and Beast



Telescope



Artist Journeys from Modeling Clay to Murals

BY KARENA HU

Yang Shen paints his childhood fantasies. On his canvas, pupils await the arrival of US President Richard Nixon; sailors gaze out through binoculars; and the Chinese children's song "Yifengqian" comes to life.

The 42-year-old Beijing artist grew up during a time when resources were scarce. His father taught art at a secondary school, and it was on campus that Yang discovered his dream of becoming an artist.

One day, Yang found some discarded modeling clay on campus and began shaping it into figures of animals and people. A painter who was friends with his father saw his creations and advised Yang to pursue art training.

Yang studied mural painting at the Central Academy of Fine Arts and graduated in 1996. During his college career he experimented with graffiti and recalled the delight his clay creations gave him during childhood.

"It turned out that my love for literature and comics, together with my art training, all pointed toward painting stories. I found pleasure by building a fictional world on canvas that reflects my imagination, memories, desires and thoughts," Yang wrote in "All for Fun," his his article on Artand.cn.

This shift in style is reflected in his 2008 oil painting series *The World Without Pain*. Against a somber background, the paintings illustrate a creature between man and animal, with two short ears on its head and a drowsy face. The dark imagery is inspired by real-life challenges and things that happened to his friends, he said.

"The creature deviates from the way in which rabbits and cartoon characters are normally depicted. It should be interpreted as a victim, being tied, cut, imprisoned or poisoned. But there are times when the rabbit grabs weapons and defends itself,

like setting a toy soldier on fire in an imaginary world," curator Yang Guopeng says.

In 2011, Yang started painting *The Zoo* series. The series contains three of his best works: "Nocturnal House," "Sailor and Lake Monster" and "Navy and Kelp."

"The whole series just feels like a brand new start," Yang said. "A zoo is how people imitate nature both for academic and entertainment purposes, which is similar to painting."

"I don't want to be a painter who is known for nostalgia. This series intrigues me because I was able to turn the zoo into a stage where all my fantasies could play their magic," he said.

In the *Zoo* series, Yang's imagination is vividly expressed. In bright colors, or sometimes just black and white, the series features numerous icons of the 1980s. In "Acrobatics," four trilobites are sprawled on the ground while two acrobats are performing a balancing act in the background. The series creates a bizarre atmosphere because it features scenes that would never take place in a real zoo.

Yang says he still needs to improve a lot. He believes his work will find a market if it's good enough.

Looking back at his career, he says he hasn't changed all that much.

"I still love making up drawings and scenes in my head. Sometimes I play with modeling clay to better understand the characters' motion and lighting," Yang says.

"Maybe I was a better artist when I was six. I indulged myself in the game, I didn't care what the audience would think, and I didn't get upset over imperfections. Because I only had one bar of modeling clay, I would remake even my best works. It was all for fun," he said. ■

(Karen Hu is an intern of Beijing Today.)



Acrobatics



Nocturnal House

Photos by Yang Shen



Banana Girl



Navy and Kelp

Web: artand.cn/yangshen

A TRAVEL



CFP Photos



Staycations in Beijing

BY SIMINA MISTREANU



Photo by arrowfactorybrewing.com

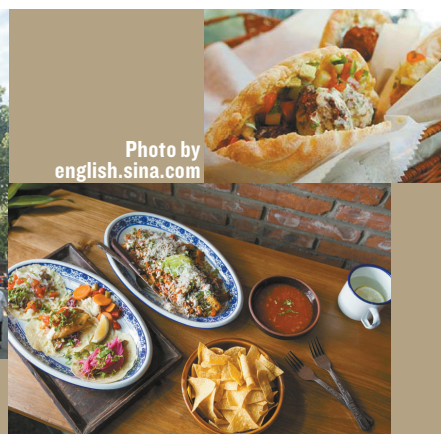


Photo by english.sina.com

Photo by tacobarchina.com



Photo by Simina Mistreanu



Photo by slowboatbrewery.com

Traveling in China can be unpredictable, and plans are never guaranteed to succeed. Those train tickets you were planning to buy may be sold out weeks before departure – especially around national holidays. There can be a change in your work schedule. Or you might just choose to avoid the holiday madness and travel during the off-season.

Whatever your reason for staying in Beijing during a holiday or a long weekend, you can still make it relaxing and festive by arranging a staycation. Choose a spot in the city that's close to your favorite hangouts and enjoy life in that neighborhood for a couple of days.

Beijing itself has much to offer, and depending on the neighborhood you choose, you can be in for a completely different experience. Make it a weekend of pub crawls and brunches, of hikes, international cuisine or Old Beijing bookstores. Just bring your traveler attitude and prepare to learn more about the city you call home.

Lama Temple for Breweries and Brunch

An obvious destination for a Beijing staycation is the hutongs. Tucked alongside the gray alleys are well-preserved traditional courtyard hotels.

161 Lama Temple Courtyard Hotel is a great and affordable option. The rooms have impeccable wood furniture, and each is themed after a tourist hotspot in Beijing, such as Beihai Lake and the Olympic Park.

Beijing Double Happiness Courtyard Hotel is rated as “wonderful” by Booking.com users. Visitors appreciated the hotel's traditional Chinese furniture and decorations, as well as its location in the heart of the hutongs.

You can start your staycation with a pub crawl to some of Beijing's most beloved microbreweries. Make your way from Arrow Factory Brewing to Great Leap Brewing #6 and then to Slow Boat Brewery Taproom. The breweries are within walking distance of one another. They are owned by foreigners who are passionate about craft beer and who like to experiment with new ingredients. Think Sichuan-peppercorn and Chinese-tea-flavored beer.

It used to be that Beijing's microbreweries were expat hangouts, but the patrons are now predominantly Chinese. The microbreweries are a great place to bring your friends or make new ones.

On the second day, have brunch at one of the many restaurants in the area. Mao Mao Chong attracts visitors with its signature bacon breakfast pizza; Mercante serves Italian brunch based on meats and cheeses; and Grandma's Kitchen serves classic American fare.

Fragrant Hills Park for a Weekend in Nature

For a weekend in nature, try the area near Fragrant Hills Park and the Botanical Garden, on Beijing's west side. January might have been cold, but it also had many brilliant, smog-free days. That's perfect weather for a hike if you bundle up and keep warm by staying active.

Fragrant Hills Park is an imperial

garden on the side of a mountain, with Xianglu Peak reaching an altitude of 557 meters above sea level. The park is known for its red leaves during autumn. In winter, it is quiet and wild, with bare trees, frozen lakes and the occasional Chinese pavilions and temples.

The reward for the arduous hike to the top is a teahouse, located halfway up, and increasingly beautiful views. From Xianglu Peak on a clear day you can see the city all the way to Chaoyang district.

After you leave the park, stop for a meal and a hot drink at Sculpting in Time Café, a cozy coffee shop tucked in-between street vendor stands and small stores.

Fragrant Hill Empark Hotel is within walking distance from Fragrant Hills Park. It provides a sauna, pool and a gym to its guests.

Sanlitun for Exquisite International Cuisine

It's true that Sanlitun, a shopping and dining area that caters to foreigners and foreign-oriented Chinese, doesn't have much of a Beijing flavor. But what it lacks in authenticity it gains in its variety of international cuisine.

Many of the city's most appreciated restaurants are located in Sanlitun, so if you want to splurge, book a room at one of the many hotels in the area and go to town.

The Beijinger and *Time Out Beijing* release annual lists of the best restaurants in the city, by category. The lists are based on staff's and readers' votes. Sanlitun boasts some of the best American-style restaurants, including Home Plate BBQ, Blue Frog Bar and Grill and Great Leap Brewing #12; Middleeastern restaurants, such as Biteapitta, 1001 Nights and RUMI; Mexican joints such as The Taco Bar, Luga's Villa and Q Mex Bar and Grill; and Spanish restaurants including the acclaimed Migas, Agua and Carmen.

For fine Chinese dining in the area, the publications recommend Jing Yaa Tang, Duck de Chine and Transit.

Liulichang for Old Beijing Bookstores

For a taste of Old Beijing, visit Liulichang Cultural Street. The traditional street used to be part of a small village during the Liao Dynasty (907-1125) that made glazed tiles. The street's namesake kiln was relocated in the 16th century.

During the Qing dynasty (1636-1911), government officials started moving to the area, which soon became a gathering place for China's politicians, scholars and painters. Many bookstores and other shops opened there.

Today, the street's stone buildings still host Old Beijing bookshops as well as stores that sell art, antiques and traditional handicrafts including statues, swords, Chinese kites, ancient shoes and scrolls.

Take your time exploring the shops and – your language skills permitting – striking up conversations with the owners. They can be living encyclopedias of Old Beijing.

Have dinner at one of the restaurants in Qianmen or Dashilan areas. If you want to spend the night, Beijing Hyde Courtyard Hotel and King's Joy Hotel are popular among visitors. ■



ENTERTAINMENT



Detective Chinatown a Success of China's Detective Movies

BY DIAO DIAO

The comedy and detective rom *Detective Chinatown* has been a hit with viewers this New Year season. That's been good news for director Chen Sicheng, who desperately needed a win at the box office after his last two duds.

Wang Baoqiang plays Tang Ren, a formerly famous detective who escapes to Thailand and spends his time gambling and wandering about. Qin Feng, played by Liu Haoran, is his talented nephew.

When Qin fails the exam to join the police, his grandmother sends him to Thailand for a vacation. Qin expects to find his uncle the same sharp detective of his youth, but is crestfallen when he

learns Tang has become a dirty bum.

Qin's plans to return to China end up postponed when Tang ends up tangled up in a crime: a murder and theft for which he is the only suspect.

Now on the run from Chinese police, Thai police and a group of three bumbling gangsters, Tang has no choice but to rely on his aspiring detective nephew to prove his innocence before he can be arrested.

They ultimately break into the police station to obtain security footage and return to the scene to see what happened. They eventually find the criminal and the stolen gold and solve the case.

If the detective movie ended here it would be utterly forgettable and clichés.

But as Qin is about to leave, he notices a bar on the street which appears in the police record and remembers the real murderer should have been a woman. He goes back to the murderer's daughter to tell her his guess.

The film never confirms whether Qin's guess is correct, but the girl's expression during the confrontation suggests he is.

Detective work is the heart of the film, and it's clearly inspired by popular Japanese detective fiction like *Detective Conan* and *Kindaichi Case Files*. *Detective Chinatown* has the distinction of being one



Photos by douban.com



of the only Chinese detective movies to leave viewers satisfied.

Director Chen Sicheng spent months researching for the story. He read numerous detective books to try and learn which formulas worked and why. Although one scene in the film imitated the old Hong Kong comedy *Hail the Judge*, it created an appropriate comedic effect in the film.

Chen is best known for his acting role in the 2006 TV series *Soldiers Sortie*. He made his directorial debut with the TV series *Beijing Love Story* in 2011. Two years later, Chen adapted the show for the big screen but failed to make an impression.

Actor Wang Baoqiang is known for his role as an honest and kind soldier in *Soldiers Sortie*. In this film, he plays a completely different, comical character. Wang speaks with a Hebei accent, but for his role in the film he attempts to feign a Cantonese accent for comic effect.

Liu Haoran's performance was surprising after his debut role in the *Beijing Love Story Movie*.

Tong Liya, Chen's wife, also contributed her talents to the movie as Tang Ren's beautiful and sexy neighbor. Famous Chinese comedians Xiaoshenyang and Chen He also had excellent performances in the movie. ■

A Bite of New Year Published for 2016

BY DIAO DIAO

The first two seasons of *A Bite of China*, the documentary series on Chinese food, were so popular that they won several awards abroad. To capitalize on the show's success, the staff kicked off 2016 with the book *A Bite of New Year*, a tour of China's holiday cuisine.

The book is the collaborative work of directors Chen Xiaoqing and Deng Jie; chief consultant Shen Hongfei; actor Huang Lei; culture scholar and Beijing food fan Zhao Heng; editor-in-chief of Weixinzazhi Wen Yao; food reporter

Xiaokuan; and Top 10 Chinese chef Chen Luoping.

The team spent two years traveling to 30 provinces in search of unknown and delicious foods. The book catalogs some 352 New Year dishes from across the nation.

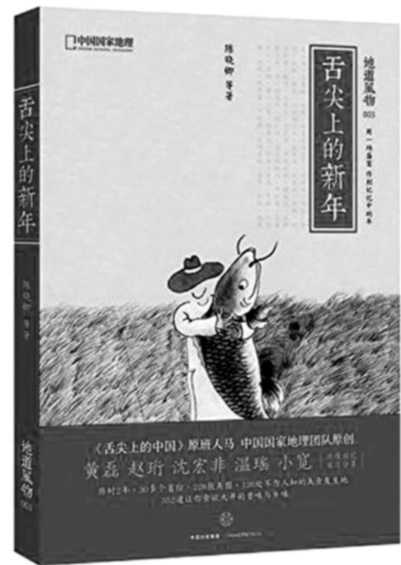
Each December, China switches to festival mode for the New Year and Spring Festival. Families in different areas prepare different foods at this time.

A Bite of New Year explains the origins of each regional culinary tradition

and introduces how its people celebrate Spring Festival.

The book has five chapters, and each follows a certain theme. Beside the famous niangao, a sticky rice and jujube creation, and labazhou, a porridge of beans and nuts, the book includes less familiar food such as the baozi of Inner Mongolia's Buryats and sujiao, a snack eaten in Guangxi province.

The team is currently editing a third season of *A Bite of China* and preparing for a film based on *A Bite of New Year* that is slated for release later in 2016. ■



Q CLASSIFIEDS

MUSIC



Tulegur's Nomad Rock Comes to Jianghu Bar

Tulegur kicked off 2016 with the Limitless Tour of south China to bring their latest songs to fans outside of Beijing.

In their first year as a duo, Tulegur released the EP *Wind, Grass, Sound*, a new direction for the band that combines electronic and psychedelic elements with their Mongolian rock. The new style of music caught the attention of audiences across Europe, as well as on Reunion Island and in India.

The duo said tours are their chance to communicate with listeners and to discover new cultures for creative input. The band is breaking the limitations of genre definitions and inviting listeners to join in according to their individual understanding.

The show in Jianghu Bar on January 30 will be their last before Chinese New Year. Come and discover something new!

- ⌚ 9 pm-midnight, January 30
- 📍 Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng
- 📞 tulegur.com
- 💎 80 yuan



Rock Out to Voltron at The Garage

It's time once again for these boys to take the stage and let out some musical rage! Voltron nailed a great show last time around and is excited to return for another helping of hard rock and alternative classics.

Hailing from a wide variety of locations, Voltron will ensure you curse yourself for not bringing your earplugs and Doc Martins. Playing a mix of genres, their eclectic selection of everything from The Beatles to Guns N' Roses.

Rock on, and prepare yourselves for a journey in sound!

- ⌚ 9 pm-midnight, January 29
- 📍 The Garage, Houshayu Yuyang Lu, Shunyi (100 meters east of Capital Paradise South Gate)
- 💎 Free

ART



Discover the Pop Art workshop at Atelier this winter!

Pop art began in the US in the 1950s when artists began to adopt the standardized iconography of American life. During the week, discover comic strips with Lichtenstein's work, the technique of Andy Warhol's screen printing and Oldenburg's soft sculptures.

Mediums include painting, drawing and sculpture. Discover pop art history and the most important artists of the movement.

- ⌚ 10 am-noon for 5-8 years old or 1:30-4 pm for 9-12 years old, February 1-5 or 22-26
- 📍 Atelier, Room 202, Building C, Jinxiu Yuan, Xingfucun Zhong Lu, Chaoyang
- 💎 1,500 yuan

COMMUNITY



III Flamenco Festival Portacones

Flamenco dance school Portacones presents the second flamenco dance by its students and teachers. The show will tour different flamenco styles coupled with lighting and costumes for each dance.

This year's show is presented at the Qing Lan Theatre to improve the quality of the stage and make visiting more convenient for the public.

If you like flamenco, do not miss this opportunity to see Portacones. Teachers Javier Meil'cn and Yolanda Santiago are professional dancers and will participate in the show.

- ⌚ 3:30-4:40 pm, January 30
- 📍 Qinglan Theatre, Bldg. 3, Qinglan Dasha, 24 Dongsu Shitiao, Dongcheng
- 💎 100 yuan



Flamenco Course

Come and learn flamenco from a school with more than four years of experience teaching the dancing art in Beijing and across China. The school's Spanish teachers have more than 25 years of experience performing at professional level. The training they offer rivals some of the best schools in Spain!

Teachers will help new dancers to find the appropriate group and level for the learner's interest.

Classes run from Monday to Saturday and offer the best flamenco atmosphere in Beijing and the most authentic in China.

- ⌚ 11:30 am - 9 pm, multiple dates
- 📍 Sanlitun Soho, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang (across from The Village at Sanlitun)

FILM



Tatort Traditional Movie Night Returns

Tatort fans, listen up! Zeit Berlin German Restaurant is hosting Tatort nights through February.

Tatort is the longest-running German police procedural TV series, set in various parts of Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The show began 40 years ago, on November 29, 1970, with the episode "Taxi to Leipzig."

Creator Gunther Witte set up "the basic arrangements" to which the participating ARD state broadcasters had to agree for their joint crime series. With few exceptions, those still hold after more than 780 episodes.

- ⌚ 8:15 pm-midnight, January 31, March 6 and April 10
- 📞 15110160573
- 💎 Free

IN THE MATTER OF
THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION
of AAMINAH B., ABDUL B., AND
ALLIYAH B.

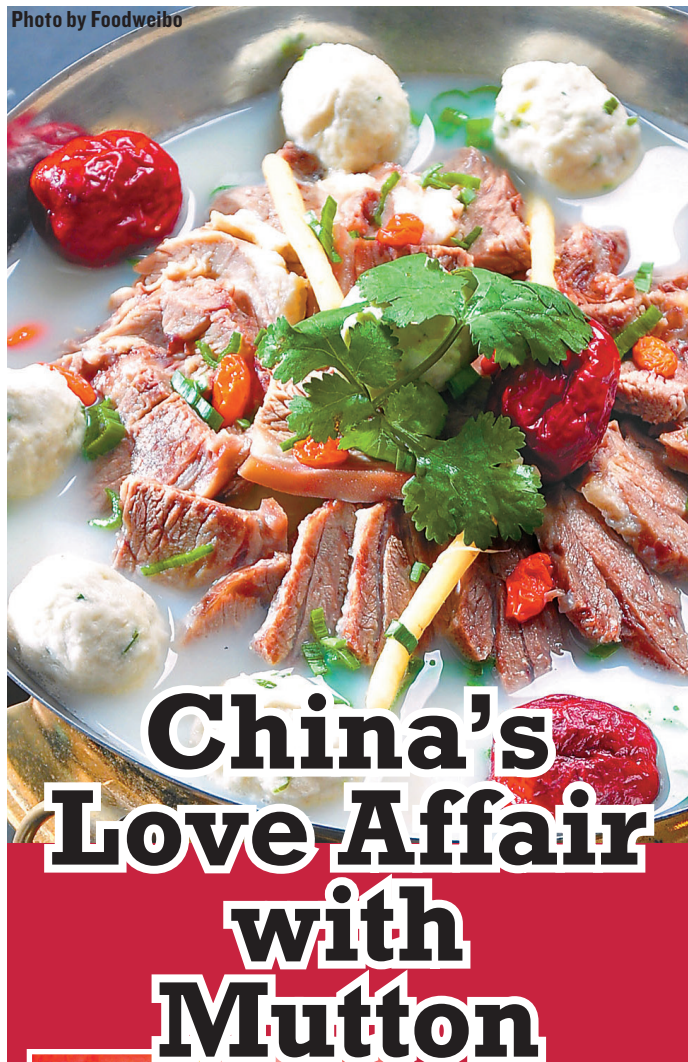
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY,
MARYLAND
Case No. 16318A

TO: ALICIA ROXANN DEMONBREUN

You are hereby notified that an adoption case has been filed in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Case No. 16318A. All persons who believe themselves to be parents of the female child born on May 2, 2000 in the District of Columbia to Alicia Roxann Demonbreun, shall file a written response. A copy of the show cause order may be obtained from the Clerk's Office at Judicial Center, 50 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850. If you do not file a written objection within ninety (90) days of the publication of this notice, you will have agreed to the permanent loss of your parental rights to this child.

FOODS

Photo by Foodweibo



China's Love Affair with Mutton



Photo by detail.com



Photo by hefei.com

Forgotten by much of the Western world, mutton remains a common component of culinary traditions around the globe. Many people favor its texture and strong taste as much as the more delicate flavor of lamb, and both are among China's most consumed meats.

Chyxx.com, one of China's largest industrial information platforms, reported last October that China had become the world's largest lamb consumer, and that the average citizen consumes more than 3 kilograms of lamb or mutton each year.

In 2014, China produced 4.28 million tons of mutton, accounting for 30 percent of the world's total production.

Although prevalent in the Chinese market, mutton use varies from region to region. Chinese medicine views mutton as a "hot" food to dispel internal cold. Therefore, the meat is more commonly consumed in the north.

The Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region are the two places that most appreciate mutton. Inner Mongolia's vast grasslands are ideal for raising sheep, and mutton from the Xilin Gol League and Alxa League are said to be of the finest quality since the animals are raised on chives and natural vegetables.

In Inner Mongolia, mutton is usually boiled with scallions, garlic and ginger. Mongolian people value the fresh taste of boiled mutton and don't add any sauces or salt when serving.

Xinjiang's style of is also well-known across China. The most famous sheep come from the Altay region in the far west. The sheep are famous for their large hindquarters and are known as *dawei yang*, or big butt lambs, in Chinese.

Altay sheep were considered the best quality in ancient China and were often chosen for imperial tribute. An adult Altay sheep usually weighs more than 80 kilograms, and the heaviest ever recorded weighed more than 171 kilograms.

Altay sheep eat natural grass and drink mountain water. Their clean diets make their meat especially tender and tasty.

Like people in Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang people enjoy their mutton. People who live there even eat boiled mutton for breakfast. Influenced by the region's Uyghur culture, Xinjiang is also famous for lamb kabobs and roasted sheep.

Roasted sheep are a well-known Xinjiang dish. The crispy skin, tender meat and special sauce makes them popular among mutton lovers. The dish is often prepared during festivals and at family gatherings.

The provinces of Shaanxi and Gansu also consume a fair amount of lamb. Shaanxi is famous for its mutton bread soup, *yangrou paomo*, and Gansu is also famous for its Jinyuan lamb.

Compared to northern China, southern China's cuisine rarely involves mutton because the mountainous farmland is ill suited to the raising of sheep. ■

Delicious Mutton at Hongtailang

BY WANG YAN

As a city with a significant Muslim minority for nearly 1,000 years, Beijing has no shortage of restaurants that specialize in mutton and lamb.

Most places are Xinjiang restaurants or restaurants specializing in northwestern cuisine, which can be off-putting for diners who dislike the strong taste of mutton.

Hongtailang offers excellent mutton dishes and a variety of other food. Located on the east side of Tiantongyuan, it's new to many customers. But those who have made the long trip north gave it a five-star on the review site Dianping.

The most popular order is a roasted lamb leg. Served on a traditional wood stick, the lamb leg is crispy outside and tender inside. It's slightly spicier than the lamb commonly found in Xinjiang restaurants, according to Dianping reviewers.

Hongtailang also serves lamb kabobs, roasted bread and a variety of other kabobs. For diners who want another option, it provides a variety of vegetables and seafood. Many diners praised its seafood pot, where customers can choose seafood and have it steamed.

Dianping users praised the freshness of the seafood and said it was worth the price. ■



Photos by dianping.com

MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

Learn to Make Wine with Mutton

BY WANG YAN

Beijing is getting colder and colder. Warm up your late winter nights with this simple dish of hot wine and mutton.

Ingredients:

- ☐ 200g mutton
- ☐ 1 medium tomato
- ☐ 1 carrot
- ☐ 1 onion
- ☐ 10mL red wine
- ☐ 50mL soup-stock
- ☐ basil
- ☐ oyster sauce
- ☐ scallions, ginger and aniseed

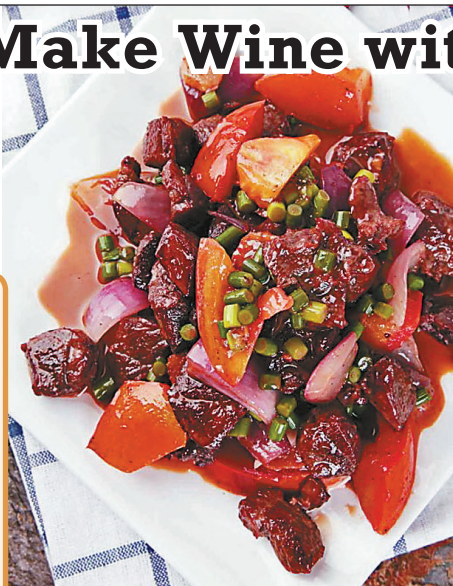


Photo by douguo.com

The Steps:

1. Cube the mutton. Stir fry it with scallions and aniseed until it changes color.
2. Clean and oil the pan. Season the oil by frying some ginger and aniseed. Add the mutton and start to stir-fry.
3. Dice the onion, and add it to the pan. Cube and add the carrot and tomato into the pan.
4. Add the stock-soup and cook for around 20 minutes.
5. Add wine and oyster sauce. Then season with basil and black pepper before serving.

Hongtailang Restaurant

➤ Outside the west gate of East Tiantongyuan
☎ (010) 6466 1187